

AS

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-051-C - ORDER NO. 97-152
MARCH 4, 1997

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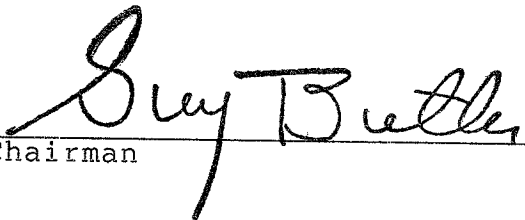
IN RE: Petition of Vanguard Cellular Systems,) ORDER
Inc. for Arbitration with GTE South,) GRANTING
Inc., to Establish an Interconnection) MOTION
Agreement.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") on the Motion filed by GTE South, Inc. ("GTE") requesting an extension of time to file a response to Vanguard Cellular System ("Vanguard") Inc.'s Petition for Arbitration. In its Motion, GTE requests that it be allowed to defer its filing until March 3, 1997. In support of its request, GTE states that it and Vanguard are progressing in their continued negotiations and believe that a complete interconnection agreement will be achieved through the negotiations in the near future. GTE further clearly offers that it does not intend to delay the arbitration process. The Motion cites that, upon information and belief, Vanguard does not object to GTE's Motion.

This Commission encourages the good faith negotiations of the parties under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Therefore, for good cause shown, the Commission grants GTE's Motion for extension. If no interconnection agreement between GTE and Vanguard is reached before March 3, 1997, GTE shall file a

response to Vanguard's Petition for Arbitration on or before March 3, 1997, and the Arbitration process shall continue before the Commission. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)